

Central Coast Council

Climate Change Policy - Community Survey

Prepared by: Micromex Research

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This Report has been prepared for Central Coast Council by Micromex Research for the purposes of summarising the primarily diagnostic community feedback about the possible impacts of Climate Change within the Central Coast area and initial reactions to Council's Draft Climate Change Policy, via 1,422 online community surveys and 78 online Council Staff surveys.

Background



Methodology & Sample

Objectives

Central Coast Council undertook this research in order to acquire community feedback about climate change, gauging a better understanding of how residents believe climate change may impact them personally as well as the local and regional environment. In addition, Council wishes to obtain an understanding of awareness and attitudes towards the Draft Climate Change Policy developed by Central Coast Council.

Questionnaire

Central Coast Council developed the questionnaire.

Data collection period

The sample was collected via three methods:

1. The survey was available online via the Central Coast Council website during the period 12th of November – 7th of December 2018.
2. The survey was emailed to Micromex's research panel of Central Coast Council residents that had previously been randomly selected to participate in community research. Each panel member received a survey link with a unique access code, with the survey available during the period the 28th of November – 7th of December.
3. The survey was additionally circulated by Council to Central Coast Council staff directly for their participation.



Methodology & Sample

Sample

A total of N=1,500 interviews were conducted. 1,274 respondents participated in the survey via the link on Council's website, 148 participated via Micromex's research panel and 78 Central Coast Council staff participated via internal circulation. A sample size of 1,500 provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 2.5% at 95% confidence. This means that if the survey was replicated with a new universe of N=1,500 residents, that 19 times out of 20 we would expect to see the same results, i.e. +/- 2.5%.

Data analysis

The data within this report was analysed using Q Professional.

Percentages

All percentages are calculated to the nearest whole number and therefore the total may not exactly equal 100%.

Word Frequency Tagging

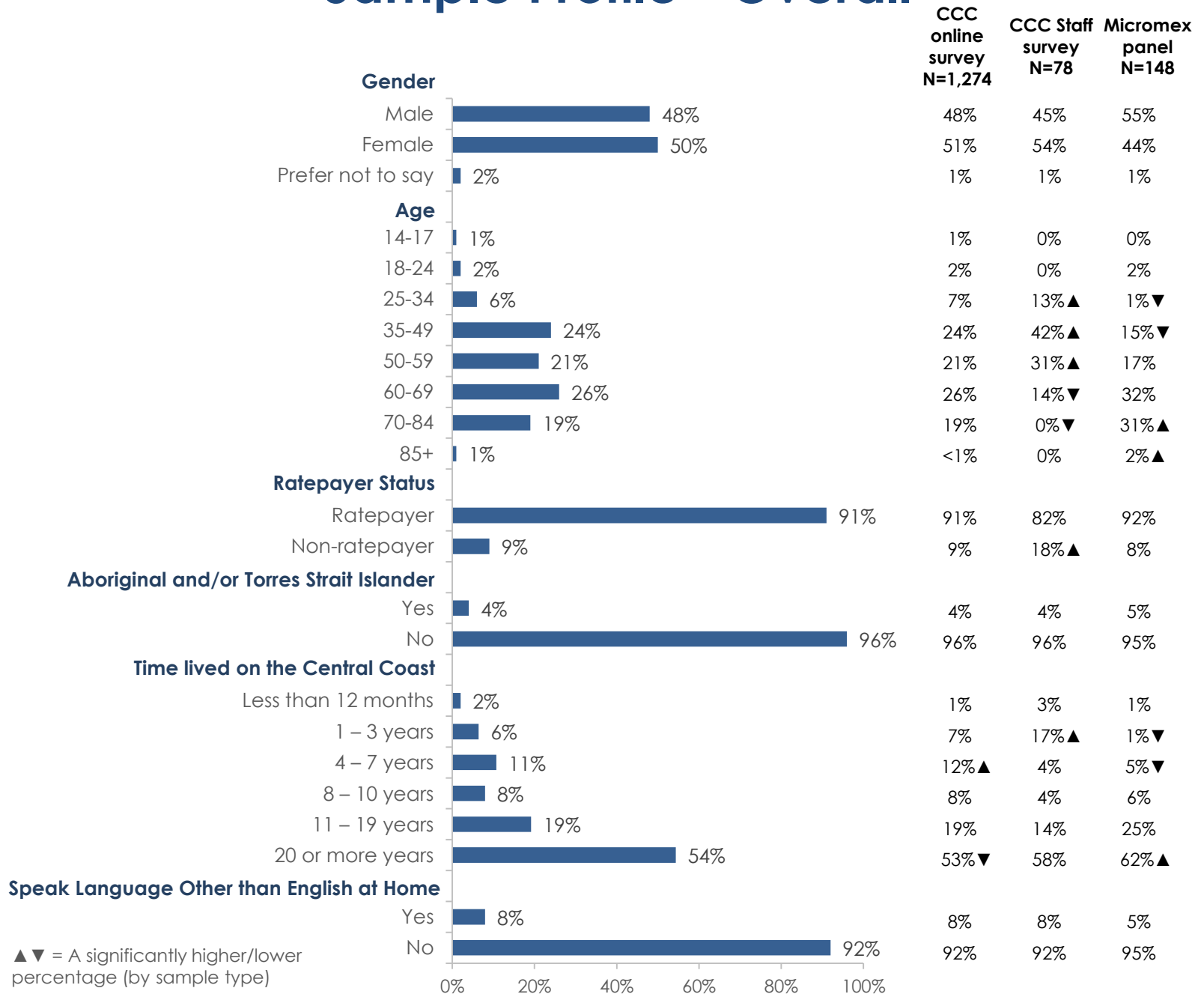
Verbatim responses for open questions were collated and entered into analytical software. This analysis 'counts' the number of times a particular word or phrase appears and, based on the frequency of that word or phrase, a font size is generated. The larger the font, the more frequently the word or sentiment is mentioned.



Sample Profile



Sample Profile - Overall



▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)

Base: N = 1,500

Key Findings



Key Findings

Impacts of Climate Change

- The most common consequence of climate change respondents believe will impact them, both personally and across the Central Coast region as a whole, is the effects from rising water levels/floods and extreme weather events.
- Unsurprisingly, respondents that live closer to natural water sources are more likely to believe they will be impacted by raising water levels/floods, whilst those that live further away are more concerned with rising temperatures. Concerns for bushfires are also greater for respondents that live closer to bushland/nature reserves.
- A quarter of Central Coast staff believe Council business and/or their work activities will be impacted by having to deal with damage/changes to local infrastructure from severe weather events – with staff also commenting on impacts to Council planning/decision making and the financial burden that of all these changes/repairs will have.



Respondents believe the most likely impact from climate change is rising water levels/floods and severe storms.



25% of Council staff believe the Council/their work will be impacted by damage/changes to local infrastructure caused by severe weather events.



Key Findings

Draft Climate Change Policy

- 55% of respondents were aware of the Draft Climate Change Policy, though the random sample of Central Coast residents from the Micromex panel suggests general awareness in the community of the draft policy is 22%. - Awareness of the Draft Policy decreases with age, but increases with higher levels of education.
- Respondents like that the Draft Policy shows Council is acknowledging and attempting to address/tackle climate change. Comments discussed the Policy being comprehensive, with aims for zero emissions and a science/evidence based approach.
- The aspect most mentioned as being disliked was the planned retreat, with respondents feeling this is unfair to homeowners and the financial impacts on their insurance premiums and house prices. Respondents also commented on the need for more strategic planning of how actions will be implemented.



Over half of respondents were aware of the Draft Policy – though awareness across the general community is likely to be closer to 22% (based on Micromex panel).

Liked aspects



- ✓ Acknowledges climate change
- ✓ Comprehensive
- ✓ Science/evidence based

Disliked aspects



- x Planned retreat
- x More strategic planning needed
- x More actions needed



01

Involvement in the Central Coast LGA

02

Proximity to the Natural Environment

03

Impacts of Climate Change

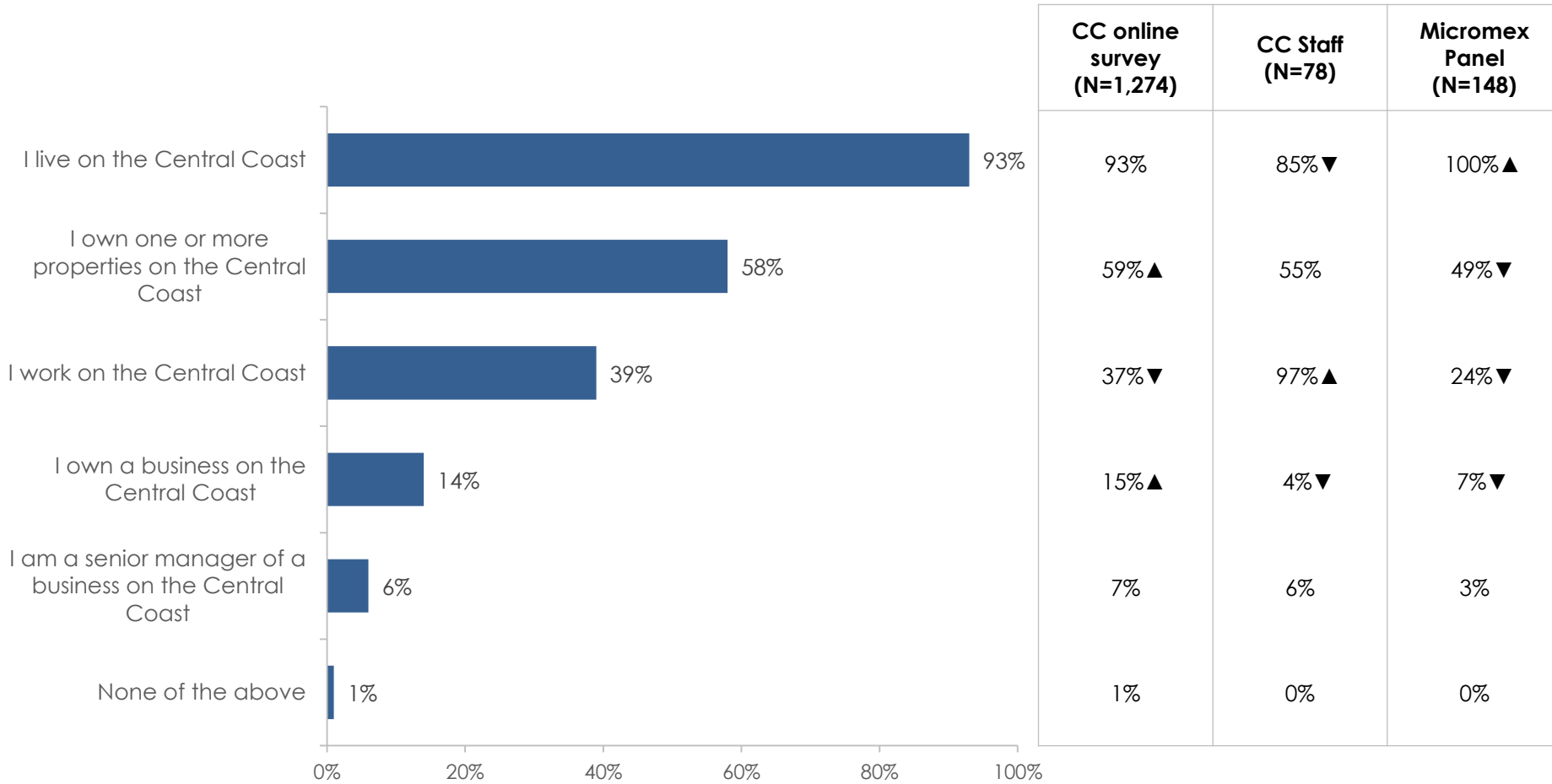
04

Climate Change Draft Policy

Results

Involvement in the Central Coast LGA

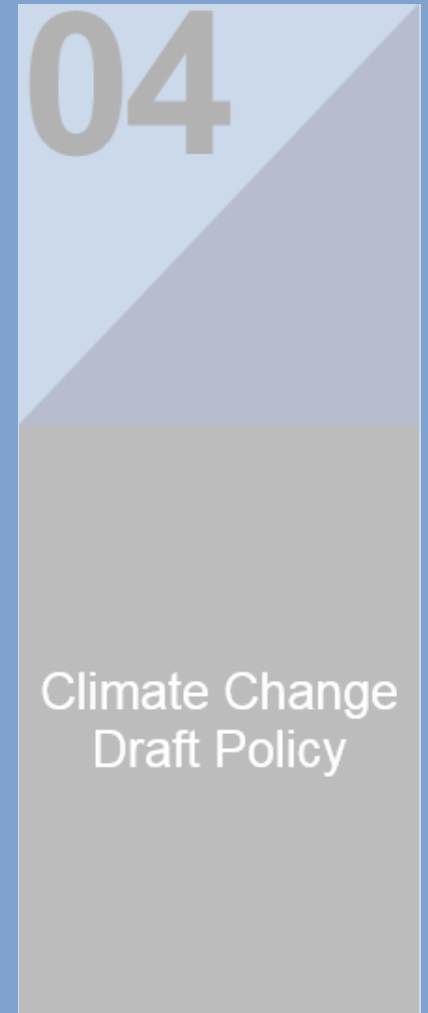
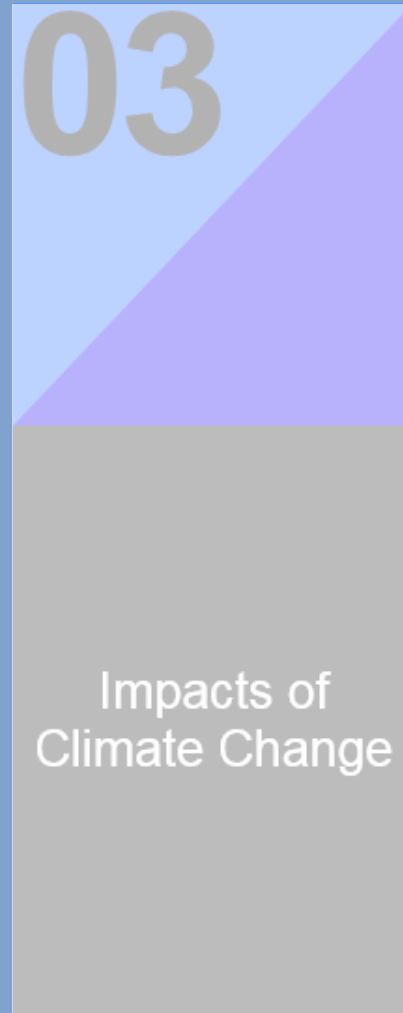
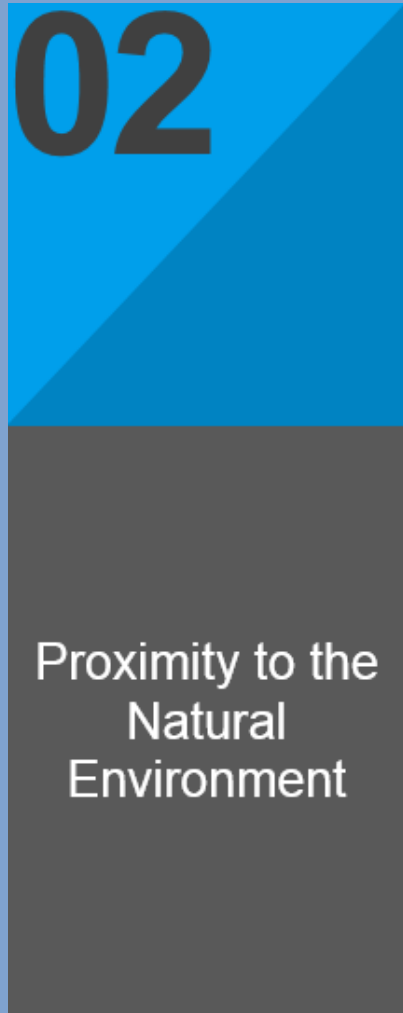
Q2. Which, if any, of the following describe your involvement in the Central Coast Local Government Area?



Base: N = 1,500

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)





Results

Proximity to Bushland/Nature Reserve

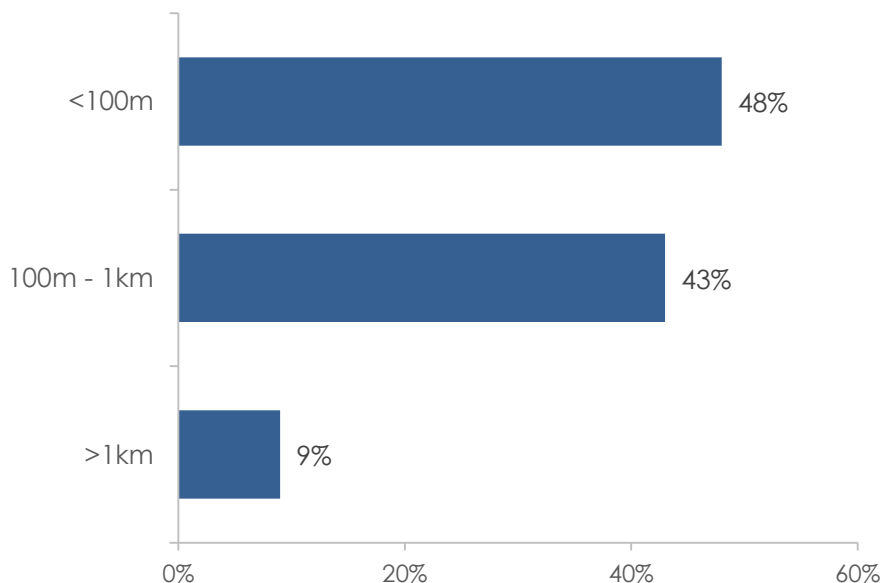
Q3a. [If 'live' on Q2] Thinking of where you live, how far away from the closet bushland/nature reserve are you?



<100m

100m – 1km

>1km



	CC online survey (N=1,182)	CC Staff (N=66)	Micromex Panel (N=148)
<100m	49%▲	33%▼	43%
100m - 1km	42%▼	49%	50%
>1km	9%	18%▲	7%

Base: N = 1,396

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)

Half of respondents (48%) that live on the Central Coast live less than 100m from bushland or a nature reserve.

Proximity to Lake/Estuary/Ocean Beach

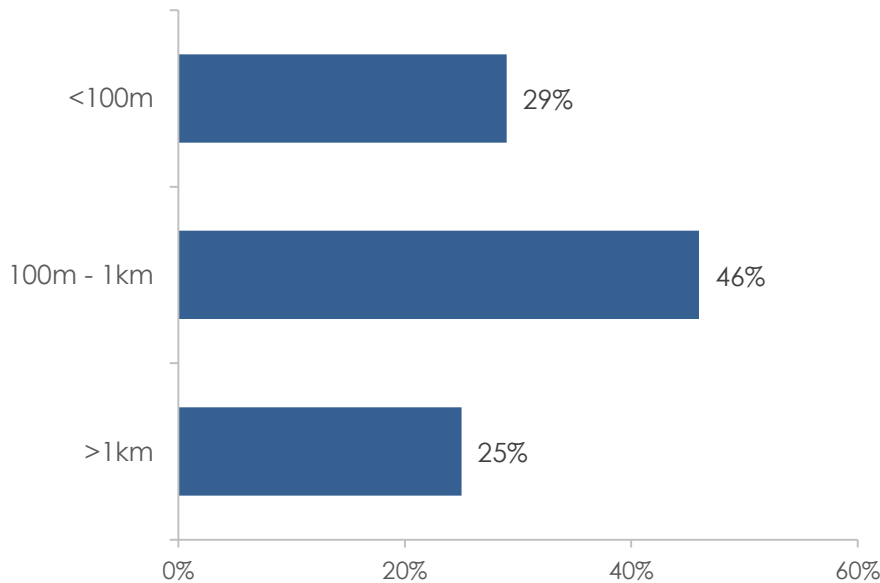
Q3b. [If 'live' on Q2] And how far away from the closest lake, estuary or ocean beach are you?



<100m

100m – 1km

>1km

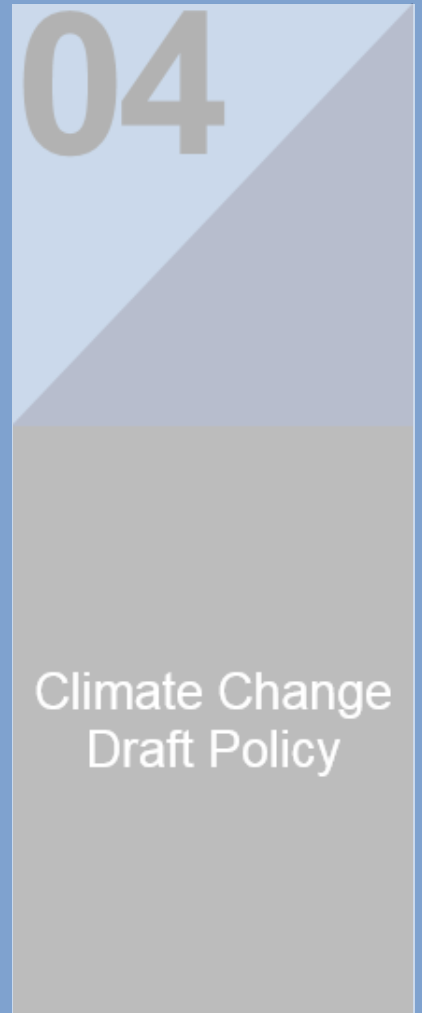
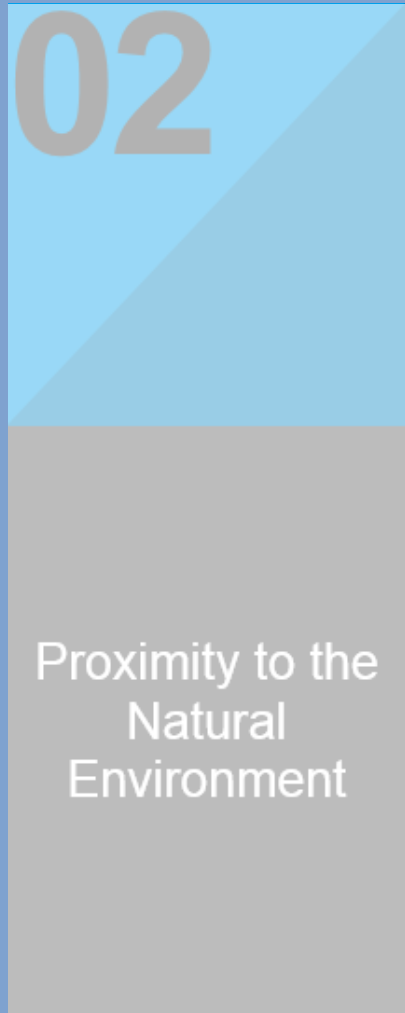


	CC online survey (N=1,182)	CC Staff (N=66)	Micromex Panel (N=148)
<100m	31%▲	15%▼	15%▼
100m - 1km	46%	56%	48%
>1km	23%▼	29%	37%▲

Base: N = 1,396

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)

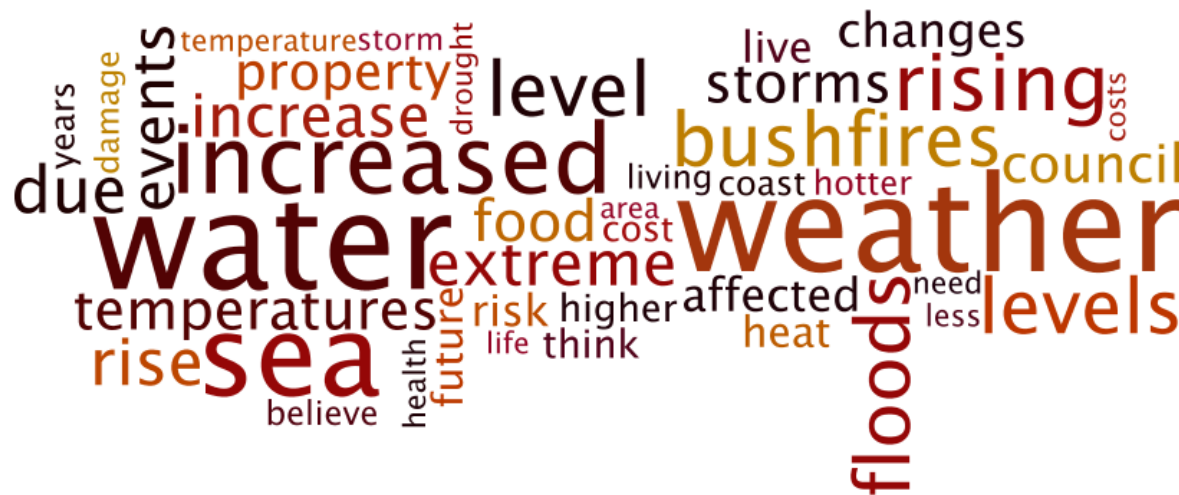
Nearly a third of respondents (29%) that live on the Central Coast live less than 100m from a lake, estuary or ocean beach, and 75% live no more than 1km away.



Results

Personal Impacts of Climate Change

Q4a. How, if at all, do you think you personally may be impacted by climate change in the future?



Personal impacts	Overall	CC online survey	CC Staff	Micromex Panel
Rising water levels/floods	29%	29%	27%	22%
Extreme weather/severe storms	27%	26%	34%	31%
Heat waves/rising temperatures	27%	26%	32%	30%
Don't believe we will be adversely impacted	24%	26%▲	9%▼	19%
Bushfires	19%	19%	17%	17%
Increased cost of living	13%	12%▼	30%▲	11%
Drought/drier conditions	12%	12%	12%	11%
Destruction of the environment i.e. flora and fauna	11%	11%	14%	7%
Issues with water security/shortages	10%	10%	14%	9%
Issues with food security/agriculture	10%	10%	13%	9%
Health issues/diseases	7%	6%▼	21%▲	6%
Power outages/higher demand of electricity	6%	6%	9%	7%
Social unrest	6%	6%	5%	5%
Don't know	6%	6%	8%	4%
Base	1,495	1,270	77	148

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)

See Appendix A for responses <6% 17

Experiencing rising water levels and floods was the dominant way respondents believe climate change will personally impact them, followed by extreme weather and temperatures. A quarter of respondents (24%) stated that they do not believe they will be personally impacted by climate change, however this result was significantly higher for those that conducted the online Council survey (26%) and significantly lower for Council staff (9%).

Personal Impacts of Climate Change – Proximity to the Natural Environment

Q4a. How, if at all, do you think you personally may be impacted by climate change in the future?

Q3a. [If 'live' on Q2] Thinking of where you live, how far away from the closest bushland/nature reserve are you?

Q3b. [If 'live' on Q2] And how far away from the closest lake, estuary or ocean beach are you?

Personal impacts	Proximity to bushland/nature reserve			Proximity to closest lake/estuary/ocean beach		
	<100m	100m – 1km	>1km	<100m	100m – 1km	>1km
Rising water levels/floods	28%	30%	31%	34%▲	29%	24%▼
Extreme weather/severe storms	25%	31%▲	21%	19%▼	29%	33%▲
Heat waves/rising temperatures	22%▼	30%▲	35%▲	17%▼	29%	34%▲
Don't believe we will be adversely impacted	25%	22%	21%	33%▲	21%	16%▼
Bushfires	21%	18%	17%	8%▼	21%	29%▲
Increased cost of living	11%▼	15%	17%	8%▼	15%	15%
Drought/drier conditions	12%	12%	13%	7%▼	13%	17%▲
Destruction of the environment i.e. flora and fauna	9%▼	12%	18%▲	7%▼	11%	17%▲
Issues with water security/shortages	9%	10%	15%	6%▼	9%	15%▲
Issues with food security/agriculture	10%	8%	14%	7%	9%	12%
Health issues/diseases	6%	6%	15%▲	5%▼	7%	8%
Power outages/higher demand of electricity	5%	8%	7%	5%	6%	8%
Social unrest	5%	6%	5%	7%	6%	3%▼
Don't know	6%	5%	8%	7%	5%	5%
Base	662	597	131	400	645	345

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

See Appendix A for the remaining list of responses

How respondents believe they will be personally impacted by climate change appears to be influenced by proximity to the natural environment. E.g. those that live less than 100m to water are significantly more likely to state they believe they will be impacted by rising water levels/floods, and concerns of bushfire are greater the closer the proximity to bushland/nature reserves.

Impacts of Climate Change to Central Coast Region

Q4b. And how, if at all, do you think the Central Coast region may be impacted by climate change in the future?



Impacts to the Central Coast	Overall	CC online survey	CC Staff	Micromex Panel
Rising water levels/floods	44%	43%	58%▲	41%
Extreme weather/severe storms	25%	25%	36%▲	22%
Bushfires	23%	23%	24%	21%
Heat waves/rising temperatures	19%	19%	32%▲	14%
Don't believe we will be adversely impacted	17%	19%▲	1%▼	11%▼
Coastal erosion	14%	14%	19%	11%
Issues with water security/shortages	13%	13%	19%	16%
Destruction of the environment, i.e. flora and fauna	12%	12%	22%▲	11%
Drought/drier conditions	10%	9%▼	17%▲	14%
Damage to houses/infrastructure	8%	8%	12%	9%
Social unrest	8%	8%	12%	10%
Don't know	12%	12%	13%	13%
Base	1,496	1,270	78	148

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)

Nearly half of respondents (44%) believe that the Central Coast will be impacted by climate change by rising water levels/floods.

14% of respondents also believe that coastal erosion will be an issue for the LGA, despite only 5% thinking they will be personally impacted (Q4a).

Impacts of Climate Change to Central Coast Region

- Q4b. And how, if at all, do you think the Central Coast region may be impacted by climate change in the future?
 Q3a. [If 'live' on Q2] Thinking of where you live, how far away from the closest bushland/nature reserve are you?
 Q3b. [If 'live' on Q2] And how far away from the closest lake, estuary or ocean beach are you?

Impacts to the Central Coast	Proximity to bushland/nature reserve			Proximity to closest lake/estuary/ocean beach		
	<100m	100m – 1km	>1km	<100m	100m – 1km	>1km
Rising water levels/floods	43%	44%	47%	41%	45%	45%
Extreme weather/severe storms	25%	26%	26%	22%	24%	31%▲
Bushfires	24%	23%	19%	15%▼	25%	30%▲
Heat waves/rising temperatures	17%▼	20%	24%	12%▼	20%	25%▲
Don't believe we will be adversely impacted	19%▲	15%	16%	24%▲	17%	10%▼
Coastal erosion	13%	16%	14%	9%▼	16%	17%
Issues with water security/shortages	12%	14%	18%	6%▼	15%	20%▲
Destruction of the environment, i.e. flora and fauna	12%	12%	17%	8%▼	15%▲	13%
Drought/drier conditions	10%	9%	14%	7%▼	10%	13%▲
Damage to houses/infrastructure	8%	9%	7%	5%▼	9%	10%
Social unrest	8%	9%	12%	7%	10%	8%
Don't know	13%	12%	11%	15%▲	10%	11%
Base	660	599	131	400	646	344

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

See Appendix A for the remaining list of responses

The belief that the Central Coast will be impacted by rising water levels/floods does not appear to be influenced by proximity to the natural environment. The further away from a natural water source that respondents live, however, the more likely they are to think that the LGA will be impacted by extreme weather events, bushfires, rising temperatures, water shortages and drought.

Impacts of Climate Change to Council's Business and Work Activities – Council Staff Only

Q4c. How, if at all, as a Council employee, do you think Council's business and your work activities may be impacted by Climate Change?



Council employees believe Council will be impacted by dealing with infrastructure damage from severe weather events and having to adapt their planning and decision making processes. Along with these impacts is the financial burden Council will inevitably face.

Comment	N=77
Dealing with the impacts of severe weather events on local infrastructure	25%
Impact our future planning and decision making processes	18%
Increased costs/financial burden to Council	14%
Increased need for more 'green' behaviour by Council	13%
Greater responsibility of Council to educate residents about climate change	10%
Dealing with the consequences of coastal erosion	9%
Roads and drainage impacts from flooding/raising sea levels	9%
Responding to changes in migration patterns/the movement of people away from areas impacted by raising sea levels	8%
Responding to more emergency events	8%
Do not believe there will be an effect	9%
Don't know	9%

Note: See Appendix A for a complete list of responses.

01

Involvement in the Central Coast LGA

02

Proximity to the Natural Environment

03

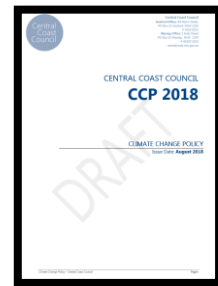
Impacts of Climate Change

04

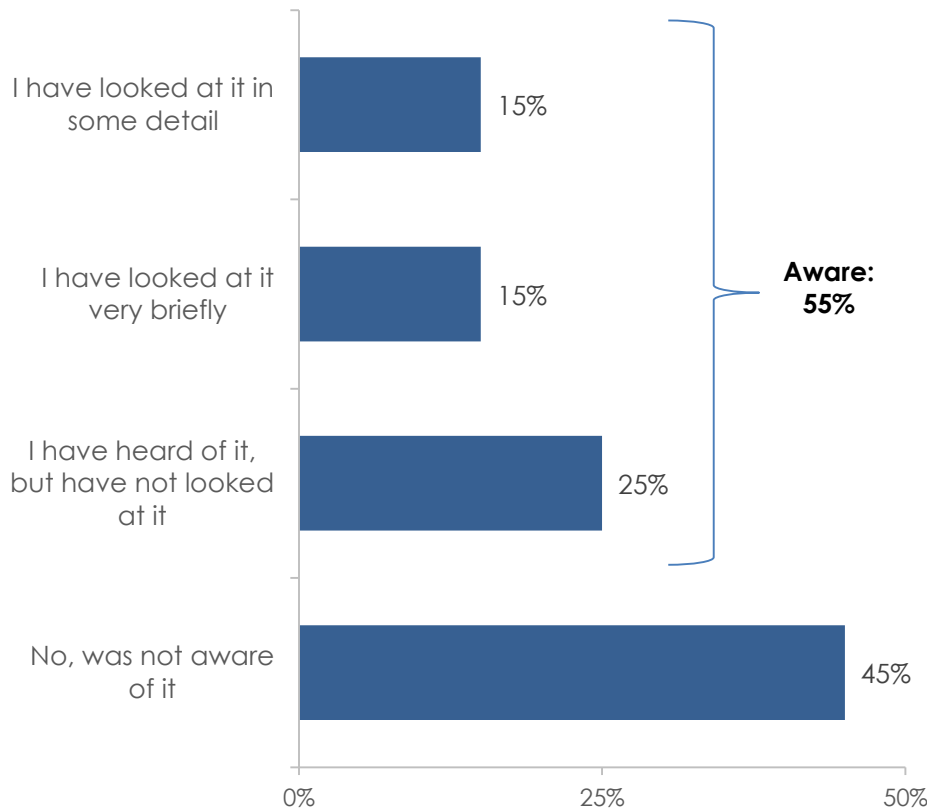
Climate Change Draft Policy

Results

Awareness of Draft Climate Change Policy



Q5a. Council has recently posted a Draft Climate Change Policy on the 'Your Voice Our Coast' webpage. Were you aware of this Draft Policy?



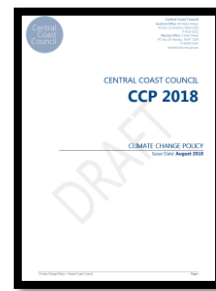
	CC online survey (N=1,274)	CC Staff (N=78)	Micromex Panel (N=148)
I have looked at it in some detail	16%▲	15%	3%▼
I have looked at it very briefly	17%▲	13%	3%▼
I have heard of it, but have not looked at it	25%	49%▲	16%▼
No, was not aware of it	42%▼	23%▼	78%▲

Base: N=1,500

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)

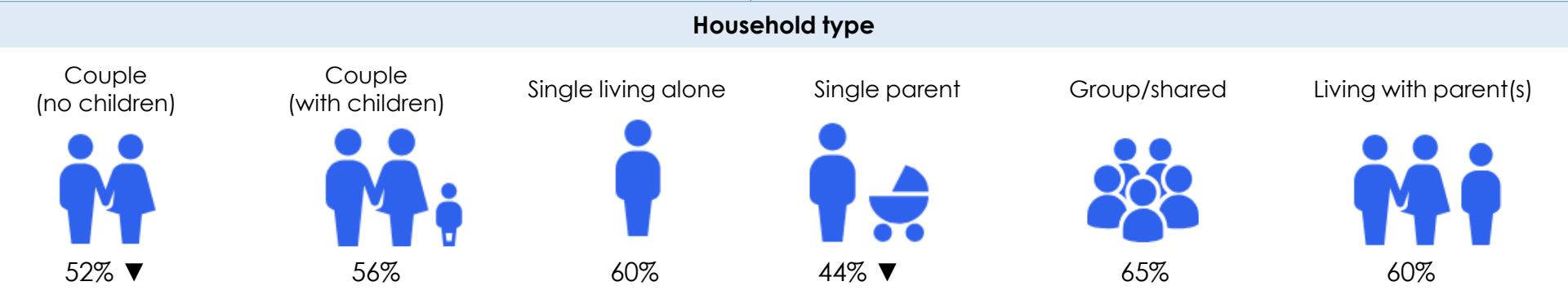
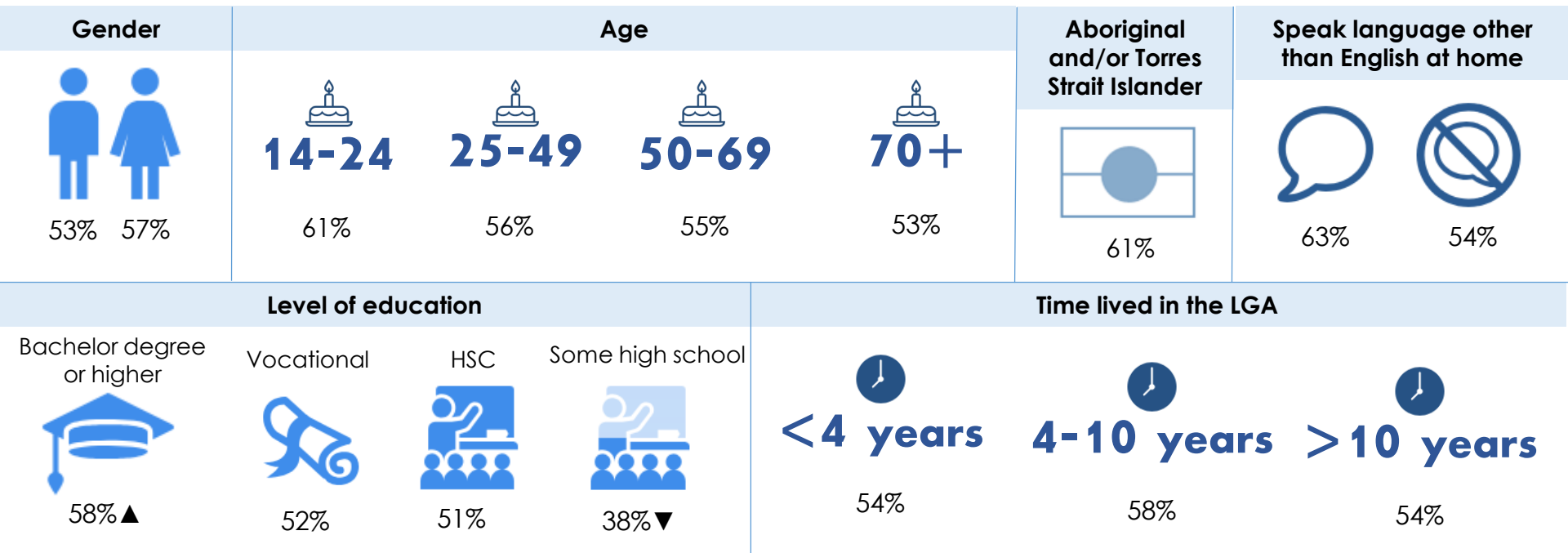
55% of respondents stated that they were aware of the Draft Climate Change Policy, even if they have not actually looked at it. However, this result is driven up by the Central Coast online survey, where respondents would have had immediate access to the Draft Policy, as well as prompts/promotions highlighting its presence. The finding from the Micromex Panel (of randomly sampled Central Coast residents) suggests that awareness is closer to 22%.

Awareness of Draft Climate Change Policy – By Demographic



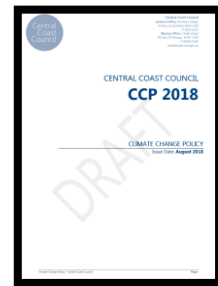
Q5a. Council has recently posted a Draft Climate Change Policy on the 'Your Voice Our Coast' webpage. Were you aware of this Draft Policy?

Overall awareness: 55%



▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Draft Climate Change Policy – What is Liked



Q5b. What, if anything, do you like about Council's Draft Climate Change Policy?

'The policy seems to be addressing a number of crucial issues that the region will be facing'

'Council is doing something in the absence of leadership from the State and Federal Government'

'That Council acknowledge that climate change is real and action needs to be taken'

'It links directly to international standards'

'The inclusion of science or evidence-based principles'

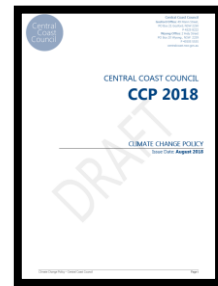
What is <u>liked</u> about the Draft Policy	Overall	CC online survey	CC Staff	Micromex Panel
Net: Council acknowledging/taking steps	25%	25%	36%	11%
<i>I like that Council is acknowledging/addressing this issue</i>	18%	18%	18%	11%
<i>Council is taking steps to manage impact of climate change</i>	10%	9%▼	32%▲	0%
That we have a policy at all	8%	8%	14%	0%
Draft appears very thorough/inclusive/comprehensive	7%	5%▼	32%▲	0%
Aim to reduce emissions/zero emissions target	5%	5%	18%▲	0%
Would need to study it further	4%	4%	0%	11%
It is evidence and science based	3%	3%	9%	0%
Outlines Council's commitment/proposed action	3%	2%	9%	0%
Community involvement/opportunity to give feedback	2%	2%	5%	0%
It's a start/step in the right direction	2%	3%	0%	0%
Raises discussion and awareness	2%	2%	5%	0%
Reasonable/good in principle	2%	2%	0%	0%
Succinct and easy to understand	2%	2%	0%	0%
Don't know	43%	44%▲	14%▼	56%
Base	446	415	22	9

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)

See Appendix A for responses <2%

The most 'liked' aspect of the Draft Policy is that Council is acknowledging climate change and acting to address the issue. The more specific features that were liked is that it is very comprehensive and aims for zero emissions.

Draft Climate Change Policy – What is Disliked



Q5c. And what, if anything, do you dislike about Council's Draft Climate Change Policy?

'That they are quietly adopting a policy of 'retreat' to homeowners if they get inundated rather than supporting them or putting in protective measures'

'It seemed a little basic, more like an index rather than a policy'

'The policy does not deliver an adequate level of implementation measures'

'Planned retreat is the worst of many ill informed actions included in this policy. It will completely deter public and private investors'

What is <u>disliked</u> about the Draft Policy	Overall	CC online survey	CC Staff	Micromex Panel
Dislike the planned retreat	12%	13%	5%	11%
Does not go into enough detail/detailed procedures	9%	9%	9%	0%
Concerned about the decrease of my property value/effect on insurance premiums	8%	8%	0%	0%
Nothing I disagree with	6%	7%	0%	0%
I dislike everything about the policy	5%	6%	0%	0%
Lacks level of implementation/strategic planning	5%	5%	9%	11%
Too much detail/difficult to understand	5%	5%	14%	0%
Is not backed by science/real evidence	4%	4%	5%	0%
More information needed before I make a comment	4%	4%	0%	22%▲
Not enough is being done	4%	5%	5%	0%
Ridiculous claims/exaggerations	4%	4%	0%	0%
Don't know	13%	12%	27%▲	0%
Base	447	416	22	9

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)

See Appendix A for responses <4%

The feature of the draft policy mentioned the most as being 'disliked' was the planned retreat, with respondents feeling that it is unfair to homeowners and will increase insurance premiums whilst lowering house prices. Comments were also expressed in regards to the policy not being detailed enough, with a greater need for a focus on implementation/actions.

Appendix A



Personal Impacts of Climate Change

Q4a. How, if at all, do you think you personally may be impacted by climate change in the future?

Personal impacts	Overall (N=1,495)	CC online survey (N=1,270)	CC Staff (N=77)	Micromex Panel (N=148)
Coastal erosion	5%	6%	4%	5%
Home devalue/insurance rise	5%	5%	9%	4%
Damage to houses/infrastructure	5%	5%	10%▲	1%▼
Excessive rainfall	3%	3%	0%	7%▲
Disruptions of daily life e.g. work/school etc	3%	3%	4%	4%
Reduced outside activity	2%	2%	3%	5%▲
Already impacted/everybody will be impacted	2%	2%	0%	3%
Cripple the local economy	2%	2%	4%	1%
Dense urban living/rising population	2%	2%	1%	3%
Loss of access to areas on the coast	2%	2%	1%	1%
Poor air quality	2%	2%	3%	2%
Poor living conditions/discomfort	2%	2%	4%	0%
Poor water quality/pollution of waterways	2%	2%	1%	3%
Transport disruptions	2%	2%	3%	3%
Change in biodiversity/landscape will alter	1%	1%	1%	1%
Cost of repairs/prevention	1%	1%	5%▲	0%
Deforestation/tree loss	2%	1%	3%	2%
Increase in water price	1%	1%	3%	2%
Increase levels of waste/pollution	1%	1%	0%	3%
My descendants will be impacted	1%	1%	0%	1%
Political destabilisation	1%	1%	0%	0%
Pressure on service and facilities	1%	1%▼	3%	2%
Pressure to act/find solutions	1%	1%	1%	0%
Rapid/global cooling	1%	1%	1%	2%
Change of clothing	<1%	<1%	0%	1%

Personal Impacts of Climate Change

Q4a. How, if at all, do you think you personally may be impacted by climate change in the future?

Personal impacts	Overall (N=1,495)	CC online survey (N=1,270)	CC Staff (N=77)	Micromex Panel (N=148)
Change to architecture/developments	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Decrease in tourism	<1%	<1%	1%	0%
Destroy humanity/earth	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Disrupt telecommunications	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Gradually impacted	<1%	<1%	0%	1%
Increase in house market price	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Loss of natural resources	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
More pests	<1%	<1%	1%	0%
Outbreaks of rioting/violence/crime	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Positive: climate/ocean will get warmer	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Strain on medical services	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Weed control	<1%	<1%	0%	0%

Personal Impacts of Climate Change – Proximity to the Natural Environment

Q4a. How, if at all, do you think you personally may be impacted by climate change in the future?

Personal impacts	Proximity to bushland/nature reserve			Proximity to closest lake/estuary/ocean beach		
	<100m	100m – 1km	>1km	<100m	100m – 1km	>1km
Coastal erosion	5%	6%	6%	3%▼	7%▲	5%
Home devalue/insurance rise	4%	6%	5%	6%	5%	5%
Damage to houses/infrastructure	4%	5%	5%	2%▼	4%	8%▲
Excessive rainfall	3%	3%	5%	2%	3%	6%▲
Disruptions of daily life e.g. work/school etc	3%	2%	5%▲	1%▼	3%	4%▲
Reduced outside activity	2%	3%	3%	1%	3%	3%
Poor air quality	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%
Poor living conditions/discomfort	1%	3%▲	1%	1%	2%	3%
Cripple the local economy	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	3%
Loss of access to areas on the coast	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%▼	3%
Poor water quality/pollution of waterways	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Already impacted/everybody will be impacted	3%	1%▼	4%	1%	2%	2%
Transport disruptions	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%
Dense urban living/rising population	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	3%
Deforestation/tree loss	1%	2%	2%	0%▼	2%	3%
Rapid/global cooling	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%▲
Increase in water price	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Cost of repairs/prevention	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Change in biodiversity/landscape will alter	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%▲
Increased levels of waste/pollution	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%
My descendants will be impacted	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Pressure on service and facilities	<1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Political destabilisation	1%	1%	0%	1%	<1%	1%
Pressure to act/find solutions	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%
Gradually impacted	<1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Base	662	597	131	400	645	345

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Personal Impacts of Climate Change – Proximity to the Natural Environment

Q4a. How, if at all, do you think you personally may be impacted by climate change in the future?

Personal impacts	Proximity to bushland/nature reserve			Proximity to closest lake/estuary/ocean beach		
	<100m	100m – 1km	>1km	<100m	100m – 1km	>1km
More pests	<1%	<1%	2%▲	<1%	<1%	1%
Decrease in tourism	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%
Destroy humanity/earth	1%	<1%	0%	1%	<1%	<1%
Strain on medical services	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	0%
Loss of natural resources	0%	1%▲	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Weed control	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Outbreaks of rioting/violence/crime	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	0%
Increase in house market price	0%	<1%	0%	<1%	0%	<1%
Change of clothing	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%
Change to architecture/developments	0%	<1%	0%	1%▲	0%	0%
Disrupt telecommunications	0%	<1%	1%▲	<1%	0%	<1%
Positive: climate/ocean will get warmer	0%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Base	662	597	131	400	645	345

Impacts of Climate Change to Central Coast Region

Q4b. And how, if at all, do you think the Central Coast region may be impacted by climate change in the future?

Impacts to the Central Coast	Overall	CC online survey	CC Staff	Micromex Panel
Dense urban living/rising population	4%	4%	9%▲	5%
Power outages/higher demand of electricity	4%	4%	5%	5%
Cost of repairs/prevention	3%	3%	8%▲	4%
Decrease in tourism	3%	3%	1%	5%
Home devalue/insurance rise	3%	3%	6%▲	2%
Poor water quality	3%	3%	8%▲	2%
Pressure on service and facilities	2%	1%▼	5%▲	3%
Crippling of the local economy	2%	2%	1%	1%
Deforestation/tree loss	2%	1%	4%	1%
Increased levels of waste/pollution	2%	2%	4%	1%
Poor air quality	2%	1%	3%	3%
Excessive rainfall	1%	1%▼	3%	5%▲
Already impacted/we will all be impacted	1%	1%▼	5%▲	3%
Change in biodiversity	1%	1%	4%▲	1%
Disruptions of daily life e.g. work/school etc	1%	1%	3%	1%
Loss of access to areas on the coast	1%	1%▼	6%▲	1%
Poor living conditions/discomfort	1%	1%	0%	2%
Pressure to act/find solutions	1%	1%	0%	1%
Reduced outside activity	1%	1%	0%	1%
Social unrest	1%	1%	3%	0%
Change to architecture/developments	<1%	<1%▼	3%▲	1%
Everything	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
High unemployment/homelessness rates	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Increase in house market price	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Invasive species migration/pests	<1%	<1%▼	1%	1%▲
Landscape will alter	<1%	<1%	0%	1%
Loss of natural resources	<1%	<1%	0%	1%
Political destabilisation	<1%	<1%	1%▲	0%
Positive: climate/ocean will get warmer	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Positive: fill/clean out creeks, rivers and lakes	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Rapid cooling	<1%	<1%	0%	1%
Strain on medical services	<1%	<1%	1%	0%
Weed control	<1%	<1%	0%	1%
Base	1,496	1,270	78	148

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)

Impacts of Climate Change to Central Coast Region

Q4b. And how, if at all, do you think the Central Coast region may be impacted by climate change in the future?

Impacts to the Central Coast	Proximity to bushland/nature reserve			Proximity to closest lake/estuary/ocean beach		
	<100m	100m – 1km	>1km	<100m	100m – 1km	>1km
Issues with food security/agriculture	5%	6%	8%	3%▼	5%	9%▲
Transport disruptions	5%	5%	8%	4%	7%	5%
Health issues/diseases	5%	5%	7%	4%	5%	6%
Cost of living pressures	4%	5%	7%	4%	5%	6%
Dense urban living/rising population	3%	5%	8%	3%	4%	7%▲
Power outages/higher demand of electricity	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%	6%
Cost of repairs/prevention	2%▼	4%	4%	2%	3%	6%▲
Poor water quality	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%
Decrease in tourism	2%	4%	5%	2%	4%▲	3%
Home devalue/insurance rise	2%	3%	5%	2%	3%	4%
Pressure on service and facilities	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Crippling of the local economy	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%
Poor air quality	1%▼	3%▲	2%	1%▼	2%	2%
Increased levels of waste/pollution	1%	2%	4%▲	3%	1%	2%
Deforestation/tree loss	1%▼	3%▲	2%	1%	2%	2%
Excessive rainfall	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Loss of access to areas on the coast	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Already impacted/we will all be impacted	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Base	660	599	131	400	646	344

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Impacts of Climate Change to Central Coast Region

Q4b. And how, if at all, do you think the Central Coast region may be impacted by climate change in the future?

Impacts to the Central Coast	Proximity to bushland/nature reserve			Proximity to closest lake/estuary/ocean beach		
	<100m	100m – 1km	>1km	<100m	100m – 1km	>1km
Pressure to act/find solutions	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%
Change in biodiversity	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Disruptions of daily life e.g. work/school etc	<1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Poor living conditions/discomfort	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Reduced outside activity	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%
Strain on medical services	1%	<1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Increase in house market price	<1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Loss of natural resources	<1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	<1%
Rapid cooling	1%	<1%	0%	1%	<1%	1%
Landscape will alter	<1%	<1%	2%▲	1%	<1%	1%
High unemployment/homelessness rates	1%	0%	1%	<1%	1%	<1%
Invasive species migration/pests	1%	<1%	0%	0%	1%	<1%
Change to architecture/developments	<1%	<1%	1%	0%	<1%	1%
Weed control	<1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	<1%
Political destabilisation	<1%	0%	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Positive: climate/ocean will get warmer	0%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Positive: fill/clean out creeks, rivers and lakes	0%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	0%
Everything	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	0%	0%
Base	660	599	131	400	646	344

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Impacts of Climate Change to Central Coast Region

Q4c. How, if at all, as a Council employee, do you think Council's business and your work activities may be impacted by Climate Change?

Comment	N=77
Dealing with the impacts of severe weather events on local infrastructure	25%
Impact our future planning and decision making processes	18%
Increased costs/financial burden to Council	14%
Increased need for more 'green' behaviour by Council	13%
Greater responsibility of Council to educate residents about climate change	10%
Dealing with the consequences of coastal erosion	9%
Roads and drainage impacts from flooding/raising sea levels	9%
Responding to changes in migration patterns/the movement of people away from areas impacted by raising sea levels	8%
Responding to more emergency events	8%
Greater reliance on water storage/responding to impacts of drought	6%
Extreme weather will impact ability of outdoor Council workers to carry out their jobs	5%
Problems with supplying energy/stable energy	5%
Strain on the services we are able to offer the community	4%
Issues regarding political control/limiting powers of local government	3%
A greater need for Council to lobby manufacturers and businesses to reduce emissions and waste	1%
Dealing with angry/concerned residents	1%
Impact tourism economy	1%
Do not believe there will be an effect	9%
Don't know	9%

Draft Climate Change Policy – What is Liked

Q5b. What, if anything, do you like about Council's Draft Climate Change Policy?

What is <u>liked</u> about the Draft Policy	Overall	CC online survey	CC Staff	Micromex Panel
Considers the long term approach	1%	1%	0%	0%
Council has identified a location based approach	1%	1%	0%	0%
Council is acting at a local level on a global issue	1%	<1%▼	9%▲	0%
I like all/most of the draft policy	1%	1%	0%	0%
Important for corporate and community to uptake renewable energy	1%	1%	0%	0%
It looks okay/it is brief/general	1%	1%	0%	0%
It outlines how impacts need to be anticipated/planning needs to be done	1%	1%	0%	11%▲
Precautionary principle	1%	1%	0%	0%
Recognises that it's a commitment from all of Council and not just the environment department	1%	1%▼	9%▲	0%
Appears to be balanced	<1%	<1%▼	5%▲	0%
Applies to both public and private actions	<1%	0%▼	5%▲	0%
Better late than never	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Collective decision making	<1%	<1%▼	5%▲	0%
Could do more	<1%	0%▼	0%	11%▲
Ecological sustainable development	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Great initiative by Council	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Infers a wider reference to the impact of Council decisions with environment	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Open minded planning approach	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Planned retreat	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Plans to identify opportunities to finance the initiatives	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Represents a responsible council	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Shows preparedness for urban/population growth	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Some elements are fact	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
The policy is public	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Base	446	415	22	9

▲ ▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)

Draft Climate Change Policy – What is Disliked

Q5c. And what, if anything, do you dislike about Council's Draft Climate Change Policy?

What is <u>disliked</u> about the Draft Policy	Overall	CC online survey	CC Staff	Micromex Panel
Lack of consideration for residents affected by planned retreat	3%	3%	5%	0%
Nothing to ensure it will be carried out/no plans to action it	3%	3%	0%	0%
Political bias	3%	3%	5%	11%
Slow process/should be actioned sooner	3%	3%	0%	11%
A waste of time/effort/money	2%	2%	0%	0%
Aspects are hidden/dishonest intentions	2%	2%	0%	0%
Doesn't explore other options	2%	2%	0%	0%
Lack of consultation	2%	2%	5%	0%
Lacks goals/timeline/limited in its objectives	2%	2%	5%	0%
Needs proper collaboration with scientists/those who understand climate change	2%	1%▼	5%	11%▲
Not comprehensive enough/doesn't cover everything	2%	2%	5%	0%
Not firm enough/too overcautious	2%	2%	0%	0%
State/Federal Government issue/Council should be concerned about other things	2%	2%	0%	0%
The word 'retreat' itself	2%	2%	0%	0%
Action plan disguised as a policy	1%	<1%▼	9%▲	0%
Bland/nothing special	1%	1%	0%	0%
Bullying/scare tactics used	1%	1%	0%	0%
Dislike that councillors have the power to take houses/refuse developments	1%	1%	0%	0%
Doesn't address compensation for lost properties	1%	1%	0%	0%
Doesn't cater for all of the Central Coast/residents	1%	1%	5%	0%
Impacts the area I live	1%	1%	0%	0%
Lack of support from higher levels of government/other councils	1%	1%	0%	11%▲
Most of the policy is reactive	1%	1%	5%	0%
Suggests climate change can be reversed	1%	1%▼	0%	22%▲
Too many motherhood statements/tokenistic	1%	1%	5%	0%
Base	447	416	22	9

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)

Draft Climate Change Policy – What is Disliked

Q5c. And what, if anything, do you dislike about Council's Draft Climate Change Policy?

What is <u>disliked</u> about the Draft Policy	Overall	CC online survey	CC Staff	Micromex Panel
Poor research behind policy	1%	1%	0%	0%
There is no plan to hold local business/manufacturers and residents responsible	1%	1%	0%	0%
Too hastily prepared	1%	<1%	5%▲	0%
Too much focus on the economics	1%	1%	0%	0%
Unrealistic goals/too optimistic	1%	1%▼	5%	11%▲
Will be up to the ratepayer to pay for the policy	1%	1%	0%	0%
Yet to see the action plan	1%	1%	0%	0%
Blanket fix across all waterfront properties	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Contradictory	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Council wanting to be seen as politically correct	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Council won't consider the results of consultation	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Depends too much on State/Federal funding	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Does not address the root causes of climate change	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Doesn't address the cost of implementing change	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Doesn't stop overdevelopment/population growth	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Don't believe in climate change	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
It assumes existing community knowledge	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
It's only a draft	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Lack of reference and involvement from the indigenous community	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
No mention of dealing with conflict of interest	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Not strict enough development regulations	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Planning issues could be restraining	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Poor process of engagement/collaboration	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Some sections were crossed out	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Too much focus on private properties	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
UN is taking over our government	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Unsure how effective mitigation will be	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
Base	447	416	22	9

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by sample type)

Appendix B - Questionnaire



**Central Coast Council
Community Survey – Climate Change
November 2018**

Thank you for your interest in this short climate change survey.

As we develop our first Climate Change Policy for the entire region your input in this initial survey will help us to better understand your thoughts on how climate change may impact the local and regional environment.

The survey has two purposes:

- To obtain initial community feedback about climate change, and
- To obtain expressions of interest from the community about participating in some workshops about climate change in early 2019.

This survey should take approximately five minutes to complete. Please answer all questions in one session as you cannot save and return to the questionnaire once it has been closed.

Whilst Council is hosting this online survey, we have asked local research company Micromex Research to help us analyse the results – Micromex will also manage the community workshops in 2019.

Please note that your responses to these questions will only be reported in aggregate form – and your name/contact details will not be shared with anyone else.

To answer the questions, either select one or more of the listed responses, or type in your response (please provide as much detail as possible).

Q1a. What is your age?

- Under 14 years **(Terminate)**
- 14 – 17
- 18 – 24
- 25 – 34
- 35 – 49
- 50 – 59
- 60 – 69
- 70 – 84
- 85 years and over

Q1b. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Q2. Which, if any, of the following describe your involvement in the Central Coast Local Government Area? Please select all that apply. (MR)

- I live on the Central Coast
- I own a business on the Central Coast
- I am a senior manager (eg: General Manager, Store Manager, etc) of a business on the Central Coast
- I work on the Central Coast
- I own one or more properties on the Central Coast
- None of the above

Q3a. [If 'live' on Q2] Thinking of where you live, how far away from the closest bushland/nature reserve are you? (SR)

- Less than 100 metres
- 100 metres to 1 kilometre
- More than 1 kilometre

Q3b. [If 'live' on Q2] And how far away from the closest lake, estuary or ocean beach are you? (SR)

- Less than 100 metres
- 100 metres to 1 kilometre
- More than 1 kilometre

Q4a. How, if at all, do you think you personally may be impacted by climate change in the future? Please provide as much detail as possible.

.....

Q4b. And how, if at all, do you think the Central Coast region may be impacted by climate change in the future? Please provide as much detail as possible.

.....

Q5a. Council has recently posted a Draft Climate Change Policy on the 'Your Voice Our Coast' webpage. Were you aware of this Draft Policy?

- No, was not aware of it
- I have heard of it, but have not looked at it
- I have looked at it very briefly **(Ask Q5b,c)**
- I have looked at it in some detail **(Ask Q5b,c)**

Q5b. What, if anything, do you like about Council's Draft Climate Change Policy? Please provide as much detail as possible.

.....

Q5c. And what, if anything, do you **dislike** about Council's Draft Climate Change Policy?
Please provide as much detail as possible.

.....

Q6a. In February next year, Council will be convening five community workshops across the Coast – full details about dates, times and locations are yet to be announced. The workshops will be held on week nights, and run for approximately two and a half hours each. Would you be interested in participating in one of the workshops to discuss the Draft Climate Change Policy in more detail?

- Yes (Ask Q6b, then go to Q7a)
- No (Go to Q7a)

Q6b. Please provide your details so we can notify you when workshop dates are announced.

Name [MUST PROVIDE].....
Email [Preferred].....
Phone.....
Suburb.....

Finally, some questions about you...

Q7a. What is your household type?

- Single/living alone
- Single parent (children at home)
- Couple (children at home)
- Couple (no children at home)
- Group/shared household
- Living at home with one or more parents
- Other (please specify)

Q7b. [Suburb NOT provided on Q6b] Which suburb do you live in?

Q7c. [If 'live' on Q2] Which of the following best describes the dwelling where you are currently living? (SR)

- I/We own/are currently buying this property
- I/We currently rent this property

Q7d. [If 'live' on Q2] How long have you lived in the Central Coast area? (SR)

- Less than 12 months
- 1 – 3 years
- 4 – 7 years
- 8 – 10 years
- 11 – 19 years
- 20 or more years

Q7e. What is your highest level of education? (SR)

- Some high school
- Higher school certificate
- Vocational (TAFE, trade certificate, etc)
- Advanced diploma
- Bachelor degree or higher

Q7f. Are you of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin? (SR)

- Yes
- No

Q7g. Do you speak a language other than English at home? (SR)

- Yes
- No

Thank you for completing this survey and for expressing interest in attending a community workshop in February if you have done so.

We will contact you in the New Year once details of the workshops are finalised. In the meantime, please visit www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/climatechange for more information.

We would like all those who attend the workshops in February to have read the Draft Policy.

This market research is carried out in compliance with the Privacy Act, and the information you provided will be used only for research purposes.



micromex
research

Telephone: (02) 4352 2388

Fax: (02) 4352 2117

Web: www.micromex.com.au

Email: mark@micromex.com.au